

NO. 156.

MISCELLANEOUS READING.
KNEELING IN CHURCH.
An effort is made at present by the clergy of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland to revive the habit of kneeling in public prayer. There seems no reason why so eminently popular a usage should not become universal in this country as well as elsewhere. There is, however, one reason that will, to a great extent, account for its disuse here, and that is the lack of proper kneeling accommodations in our churches. Even the Episcopal churches, where the custom is enjoined by the

is the lack of proper kneeling accommodations in our churches. Even the Episcopal churches, where the custom is enjoined by the prayer book, are usually so deficient in kneeling facilities that the majority of the congregation must kneel on the floor. The pews are narrow, and the only rest for the knees is a narrow strip of ledge of wood, wholly unfit for the purpose, the use of which makes prayer a torture. Some pews are furnished by the occupants with low stools, covered with carpet. These do very well, but probably not more than one out of every ten pews is thus provided. In Continental Europe, where the churches and cathedrals are without pews, there is a plentiful provision of kneeling chairs, benches, and stools, and the kneeling or kneeling place rather, being about eight or ten inches from the floor, gently

These do very well, but probably not more than one out of every ten pews is thus provided. In Continental Europe, where the churches and cathedrals are without pews, there is a plentiful provision of kneeling chairs. These are made of plain wood, the seat, or kneeling place rather, being about eight or ten inches from the floor, gently sloping towards the front, and formed of soft rushes or straw. The high back of the chair.

which is really in front of the kneeling occupant, affords a support for the kneeler to rest against, while on the top of this back is usually a little ledge, on which the prayer book can be laid. These chairs are carried about from altar to altar by the worshippers, as they perform their devotions before different shrines.

old-fashioned pews will probably retain their places. If, however, the kneeling system should be extensively adopted, it will be necessary to enlarge the pews to provide kneeling accommodations. This, would, of course, lessen the number of the seats and diminish the revenues of the church—an objection which will with many be of itself sufficient to kill the movement. Another difficulty is the expense of such a change.

in the present style of female dressing. For a woman enveloped in the mass of steel hoops, patent adjustable matinee skirts, and all the paraphernalia of the feminine attire of the present day, kneeling is almost impossible and may be fairly considered one of the lost arts. It is to be feared that crinoline and pew reuts will form insuperable barriers to the modification of our churches so as to facilitate kneeling; while under the present arrangement it requires during church ser-

arrangement is required, during which time, an unusual amount of devotion and physical endurance to "kneel before the Lord our Maker."—*N. Y. Eve. Post.*

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